Promotion of higher education in tribal areas

192. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any policy has been formulated to promote higher education in tribal areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and how many students would be benefited from the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The thrust of the policy underlying the XIth Plan for Higher Education is on increasing access to quality higher education while ensuring equity. A new Scheme for Reduction in Regional Imbalances, Social Gaps and Promotion of Inclusiveness in Higher Education has been introduced by the University Grants Commission in the XI Plan, which will serve the tribal areas as well. Central Universities have been established in all the States in the North-Eastern Region including in States with predominately tribal population. In addition, during the XI Plan a Central University will be established in each of those States where there is no Central University. 374 new colleges are proposed to be established one in each district where the Gross Enrolment Ratio is lower than the national average. A scheme has also been drawn up to provide grants on a sharing basis to the universities and colleges which are not eligible for central assistance under the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 including those located in tribal areas. There are also schemes for scholarships for Scheduled Tribe students and construction of girls' hostels in Colleges and Universities serving areas of low access to higher education.

In addition, the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University has been established, with its headquarters at Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh, to provide avenues of higher education and research facilities primarily for the tribal population of the country. The University is empowered to open such number of Regional Centres and Campuses in tribal areas as the University may deem fit.

Regulation of foreign universities

193. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any policy has been formulated to regulate the entry of foreign universities and to maintain the standard of education imparted by the foreign universities;

(b) whether the degrees issued by the foreign universities are sub-standard; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to check exploitation of students by foreign universities, particularly in the fields of medicine and engineering?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) At present, only the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has framed regulations, in the field of technical education, for entry and

operation of foreign universities/institutions imparting technical education in India, Public Notices have been issued by AICTE in leading newspapers and displayed on the AICTE website cautioning students about unapproved institutions. The Medical Council of India (MCI) also issues advertisements from time to time in leading newspapers cautioning the public at large about admissions in any foreign institutions not approved by the MCI, and not to get deceived by any misleading advertisements.

A legislative proposal for regulating the entry and operation of foreign educational institutions, in India is under consideration of the Government.

Enrollment against OBC quota in DCE

†194. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been no enrollment against OBC quota in Delhi College of Engineering;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has taken any initiative for compliance of reservation provisions by the University and Delhi Government;

(d) if so, the current status thereof; and

(e) the action being taken by Government to ensure enrollment against reservation quota and by when the enrollment would be complete?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Delhi College of Engineering even though affiliated to the University of Delhi is fully maintained and funded by Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) and is, therefore, not covered under the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Redefining creamy layer

195. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the rise in inflation during the last four years since 2004, when the creamy layer was last determined, and the rising prices, Government has undertaken an exercise to redefine the "cream" in "creamy layer", in the light of the Supreme Court decision regarding reservation of seats in the Universities and higher educational institutes like IIMs and IITs; and

(b) if so, what is the redefined concept of creamy layer, and the steps taken or being taken to link it with the value of the Rupee?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.